

***The Institution of Engineers, Australia: Sydney Division  
Engineering Heritage Committee***

***Oral History Program: Biographical Notes***

**Keith Ivor WARD (1934- )  
Senior Operator- Granville Asphalt Plant**

**Birth & Family:** Born 4 April 1934, at home in Edgecliff. NSW. He was one of 6 children. Mother raised and supported children on her own. Father was a WWI veteran

**Education:** Primary school - Sacred Heart School, Darlinghurst, Secondary - Marist Brothers High School, Lidcombe till 2<sup>nd</sup> Year. Left school age 15 without finishing Intermediate.

**Qualifications:** On the job training

**Memberships:**

**Awards:**

**Work History:** Ward made it a priority to leave school for work to help assist his mother and family. His first job was with Trip Travel Goods, Stanmore working the assembly line making Gladstone bags. He then worked shoemaking in Campsie. He spent 2 years as an apprentice motor mechanic at Stanmore also attending Ultimo Technical College. After withdrawing from studies after 12 months, Ward worked as a builder's labourer.

In 1953, Ward started with the Department of Main Roads (DMR) working as a line marker servicing the entire state of NSW. In December, after 6 months travelling the state, he started working with Asphalt. He worked primarily on the Armstrong Holland and Nivens mixing plants at the Central Asphalt Depot, Granville until their closure 12 months later.

In 1955, two new Armstrong Holland plants were commissioned at South Metropolitan plant, Unwin Street, Rozelle. With the construction of both freeways to Penrith and Campbelltown, Ward became leading hand, then a ganger and finally senior operator of one of the Armstrong plants as production was stepped up. Along with Kenny Williams who operated the other, mixed asphalt for the whole of Sydney.

He pioneered the use of fly ash instead of lime in the mixing of asphalt, a process developed by an engineering analyst at DMR Rosehill.

In 1974, the commissioning of American-made Barber Green plant had Ward supervise increased production to 3000 tons a day as the operation changed from manual to automatic mixing. The process was computerised in 1984.

Ward continued to be the senior operator after sale of the plant to CSR Ready mix in 1992 and later through the merge of the plant to CSR Emoleum in 1997.

He worked 39 years with the DMR and RTA and 7 years with CSR.

He retired July 2, 1999 age 65. His son was a supervisor at CSR Emoleum.

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Prepared by Michelle Keatinge, January 2003 from oral history interview conducted on 5 July 1999